

*In the Claims*

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A slot filler adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment ~~nU devices where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ housed within standard rack mount cases, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots capable of securing the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel adapted to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and  
a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained~~ standard rack mount case housing a standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent ~~housing-contained electronic device~~ rack mount case and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing that prevents~~ air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

2. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:  
the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; and  
the blanking panel attaches to the columns;  
the standard electronic equipment devices and standard rack mount cases are standard nU devices and cases where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater; and  
the rack mount cases have planar exterior surfaces abutting the airflow gaps.

3. (Previously presented): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:  
the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and  
the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

4. (Currently Amended): A slot filler adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment ~~1U devices having a box structure~~ housed within standard rack mount cases, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots adapted to secure the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel configured to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and  
a ~~box-structured~~ body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained 1U~~ rack mount case housing an electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler body and an adjacent ~~housing-contained~~ electronic device rack mount case and/or slot filler body leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing that prevents~~ air from recirculating toward the air inlet.

5. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein:  
the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron; and  
surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.

6. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein:  
the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate; and  
surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.

7. (Previously presented): The slot filler according to Claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein:  
the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth,  
the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

8. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:  
a rack cabinet adapted to hold a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ housed within standard rack mount cases;  
an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;  
a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and adapted to secure the stacked rack mount cases containing the housing-contained standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices; and  
a slot filler comprising:  
a blanking panel capable of covering an entry opening of an unoccupied slot;  
and  
a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained~~ standard rack mount case housing a standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler body and an adjacent ~~housing-contained~~ ~~standard electronic equipment nU device~~ rack mount case and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing that prevents~~ air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

9. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:  
the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; ~~and~~  
the blanking panel attaches to the columns;  
the standard electronic equipment devices and standard rack mount cases are standard nU devices and cases where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater; and  
the rack mount cases have planar exterior surfaces abutting the airflow gaps.

10. (Previously presented): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:  
the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and  
the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

11. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:  
a rack cabinet adapted to hold a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices housed within rack mount cases;  
an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;  
a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and adapted to secure the stacked rack mount cases containing the ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices; and  
a slot filler adapted for usage in a the rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked standard electronic equipment 1U devices having a box structure, the slot filler comprising:  
a blanking panel configured to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot;  
and  
a ~~box-structured~~ body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained 1U~~ rack mount case housing an electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler body and an adjacent ~~housing-contained~~ electronic device rack mount case and/or slot filler body leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.
12. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:  
the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron; and  
surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.
13. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:  
the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate; and  
surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.
14. (Previously presented): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:  
the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth,  
the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure

at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

15. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

~~encasing~~ inserting a plurality of ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment  $nU$  devices ~~contained within standard  $nU$  rack mount cases~~ where  $n$  is a multiple of  $U$  units of size 1 or greater ~~in~~ into a housing having multiple slots ~~for receiving configured to receive the rack mount cases housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment  $nU$  devices arranged in a stack;

directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard rack mount cases containing the~~ electronic equipment  $nU$  devices ~~where  $n$  is a multiple of  $U$  units of size 1 or greater~~ from an air inlet to an exit;

inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots ~~between the plurality of housing-contained standard rack mount cases containing the~~ electronic equipment  $nU$  devices ~~where  $n$  is a multiple of  $U$  units of size 1 or greater and/or slot fillers;~~ and

arranging the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard rack mount cases containing the~~ electronic equipment  $nU$  devices ~~where  $n$  is a multiple of  $U$  units of size 1 or greater~~ and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent ~~housing-contained standard rack mount cases containing the~~ electronic equipment  $nU$  devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing that prevents~~ air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

16. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

~~encasing~~ inserting a plurality of ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices contained within rack mount cases ~~in~~ into a housing having multiple slots ~~for receiving configured to receive the rack mount cases housing-contained electronic~~ devices arranged in a stack;

directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked rack mount cases containing the housing-contained electronic devices from an air inlet to an exit;  
inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots between the plurality of stacked rack mount cases containing the housing-contained electronic devices; and  
arranging the plurality of stacked rack mount cases containing the housing-contained electronic devices and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent housing-contained electronic devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance preventing that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet;  
and  
~~selecting dimensions and form of the slot fillers to emulate a box structured 1U electronic device.~~

17. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~15~~ 16 further comprising:  
receiving the cooling airstream flow into the housing from an air inlet in a front portion of the housing; and  
venting warm air from the stacked ~~standard electronic equipment 1U~~ devices to an exit in a rear portion of the housing.

18. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~15~~ 16 further comprising:  
covering the slot filler in an unoccupied slot with an ornamental covering.

19. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~15~~ 16 further comprising:  
adjusting slot filler length for extension into the housing a controlled depth selected from a group of actions consisting of adjusting at least one telescoping joint in a telescoping body, breaking the body structure along a perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at a selected depth into the rack cabinet, and sliding a plurality of rigid rectangular plates relative to one another.

20. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a housing with a plurality of slots regularly arranged in a stack for receiving multiple ~~housing-contained standard~~ electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ encased within rack mount cases, the housing having an air inlet and an air exit for passing cooling air through the ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices;

at least one ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device inserted into at least one of the plurality of slots; and

at least one slot filler inserted into the a slot of the plurality of slots, the slot fillers having dimensions that emulate dimensions of a ~~housing-contained standard~~ electronic equipment nU device rack mount case,

the at least one ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device and the slot filler having an arrangement when inserted into the slots so that clearance between the adjacent slot fillers and/or ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device devices is an air flow gap that extends from the air inlet to the air exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing that prevents~~ air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

21. (Currently Amended): A system for controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

means for ~~encasing~~ holding a plurality of ~~housing-contained standard~~ electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ contained within rack mount cases;

means within the ~~encasing~~ holding means for receiving the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount contained electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices arranged in a stack;

means for directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount contained electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ from an air inlet to an exit; and

means for filling any unoccupied receiving means, the receiving means, ~~standard~~ rack mount contained electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices, and filling means being arranged with a selected clearance between adjacent ~~standard~~ rack

mount contained electronic equipment ~~in~~ devices and/or filling means leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.